

Remarks

Claims 8, 19 and 20 have been allowed, and claim 9 would be allowed if made self-contained. The remaining claims pending in this application were rejected in the last Office Action.

During an interview kindly extended by the Examiner on June 5, 2007, the rejection of claim 1 was discussed. As was pointed out, the processor set forth in claim 1 is operable to compare the difference between the outputs of the temperature sensors corresponding to the ambient temperature measurements against a pre-set temperature condition. Regarding this feature of claim 1, the Examiner in the Office Action stated:

Snelling teaches that the heater will cause a temperature increase of a **known number of degrees** (Par. 0031) which is considered a pre-set temperature condition, and is used to compare to the outputs of the sensors to determine the liquid level. (emphasis in original)

Even if the temperature increase caused by the heater of Snelling is viewed as a pre-set temperature condition, a difference between the outputs of temperature sensors is not compared to such a pre-set temperature condition, nor does Snelling provide any reason why the skilled person would ever want to make such a comparison between a difference in the outputs of temperature sensors and a temperature increase provided by a heater.

The Examiner agreed with this contention, but reserved the opportunity to further consider the noted claim limitation with respect to the balance of Snelling.

The Examiner's contentions regarding the term "ambient" were also discussed. It was agreed during the interview that the above set forth amendment would more clearly distinguish the operation of the indicator of claim 1 over the operation of Snelling's device. The Examiner indicated the amendment would be entered upon submission.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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